Madison University Hamilton N.Y.
Feb 12th 1849.

To the Society for Inquiry
Princeton Theo. Seminary.

Dear Brethren —

I am instructed to address you on behalf of the Society for Inquiry in Mad. Univ.

The Missionary Societies in our respective institutions, have for many years enjoyed a friendly correspondence. And strongly suspecting that it was interrupted through our neglect, permit us to express our strong desire that it may be renewed and long continued.

We have in times past experienced great benefit in this friendly interchange of sentiments. We have taken encouragement from your prosperity and found relief in trials, by the sympathy of hearts that have passed through similar trials.

And surely, dear Brethren, we now need such aid more than in our present circumstances.

You may have heard, that it has been proposed that it be removed our University from its present location to Rochester. This has been the occasion of great controversy, both within and without the Institution. And although this was to be expected, and perhaps

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we could reasonably have looked for no less than we have experienced, yet we are sorry to say that our religious and missionary interests have suffered probably more severely than any other.

Added to this, we have experienced recently another difficulty, which you may have felt your selves — I refer to the fact, that many students enter our institution with the avowed intention of devoting themselves to the missionary work, — this they often continue in for a long time, but when near or at the end of their course, for reasons often known only to themselves after their course, In these remarks I refer not to providential hindrance which cannot be avoided, nor do we say that the change was wrong, but only that its natural effect is very depressing and discouraging, and this we have experienced, lately in no small degree.

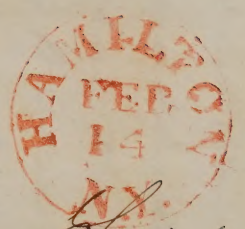
But notwithstanding all this we could not say that there is not considerable interest on these subjects in our midst, We have those who love to pray for the heathen — those who love to steal away from the noise and excitement of the world and pour out their souls to God in behalf of the perishing

At the close of the last year, three of our number Brethren Van Meter, Moore & Smith left us for the east, Bro Smith was a native of Hindoo, obtained in this country a very excellent Education, and has now returned to labor for the salvation of his Country-men, I heard from the same ship sent to the

best. We speak about the same number from the present graduating class to fill the same fields, but what can there be the demand,

We shall be happy to hear from you as soon as may be convenient

Yours with great respect
on behalf of the Soc. for Improv
J. L. Colton Cor. Sec.



Society for Religious Inquiry

Theological Seminary

Princeton

N.J.